

Bainbridge House
Princeton, Mercer County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Bainbridge House
Princeton, Mercer County, New Jersey

Owner: Princeton University

Date of Erection: Eighteenth century

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Very good; practically no
alterations in the building
except an addition built to
the rear in recent years

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - front
wall brick; sides and
rear frame construction,
beaded siding

Interior walls - plaster
with some paneling

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

The Bainbridge House was built in the
eighteenth century and belonged to Quartermaster
Robert Stockton of "Constitution Hill". Just
before the Revolution it was occupied by Dr. Absalom
Bainbridge, a loyalist physician. Dr. Bainbridge's

son, William, later a commodore in the United States Navy and commander of the Constitution, "Old Ironsides", was born in this house. When Dr. Absalom Bainbridge left Princeton by necessity, his brother Dr. Ebenezer Bainbridge took the house. Sir William Howe made his headquarters here when the British occupied the village in 1776. At present the building is used as a public library loaned by Princeton University.

The present fireplaces and paneling are about the same as when originally built. The mantels are all original, likewise the stairway. Most of the original flooring remains. The front entrance door and frame does not seem to be original. There is no record or information to show what the original front entrance looked like.

Bibliography:

Collins, V. L. Princeton Past and Present Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1931

Field book and drawings of survey

Walter B. Hart
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

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